

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original) A method for washing produce comprising the steps of:

providing a washing section having a washing unit disposed thereon so as to position spray nozzles above said washing section;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said washing section and adapted to transport produce through said washing unit from an entry point of said washing section to a terminating point of said washing section;

wherein said conveyor belt apparatus further comprises produce receiving baskets adapted to receive said produce and to expose a top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce receiving baskets comprises an upper ring that is dimensioned to receive a single item of said produce therein and that is open at an upper portion thereof to permit said single item of said produce to be placed therein, a base ring having a smaller diameter than said upper ring and that is open at a lower portion thereof and support members projecting from said base ring to said upper ring;

harvesting produce from a field; placing said produce in said produce receiving baskets; passing said produce receiving baskets with said produce therein through said washing unit; and exposing said top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce is lettuce.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
providing a loading section pivotally coupled to said washing section at said entry point  
of said washing section;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said loading section and adapted to  
transport produce along said loading section from an entry point of said loading section to a  
terminating point of said loading section and from there to said entry point of said washing  
section; loading said produce on said conveyor belt apparatus on said loading section; and  
transporting said produce along said loading section to said washing section.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
providing an upward angled ascending section positioned at said terminating point of said  
washing section, after said washing unit;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending section and adapted to  
transport produce along said ascending section from an entry point of said ascending section to a  
terminating point of said ascending section; and  
transporting said produce upward along said ascending section.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said conveyor belt apparatus located  
on said ascending section further comprises a plurality of steps located thereon and dimensioned  
to prevent said produce from falling backward as it travels upward along said ascending section.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

providing a downward angled dumping section positioned at said terminating point of said upward angled ascending section; providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said dumping section and adapted to transport produce along said dumping section from said terminating point of said ascending section to a terminating point of said dumping section; transporting said produce along said dumping section to a terminating point of said dumping section; and

dumping said produce from said terminating point of said dumping section into a receptacle.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a trailer coupled to said washing section.